

What is claimed is:

1. An intelligent router comprising:
means for analyzing content being transferred through it; and
means for identifying if the content is proprietary.

2. The intelligent router of claim 1, further including means for blocking the content from being transferred across the router.

3. The intelligent router of claim 1, further including means for modifying the content before transferring it downstream.

4. The intelligent router of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the content includes means for adding dead air to a music file.

5. The intelligent router of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the content includes means for adding an advertisement to a movie file.

6. The intelligent router of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the content includes means for adding noise.

7. The intelligent router of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the content includes means for cutting off a portion of the content.

8. The intelligent router of claim 3, wherein the means for modifying the content includes means for corrupting the content.

9. The intelligent router of claim 3, wherein the means for analyzing the content includes means for generating a tag corresponding to the content.

10. The intelligent router of claim 9, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the content.

11. The intelligent router of claim 9, wherein the tag includes an IP address corresponding to the content.

12. The intelligent router of claim 9, wherein the tag includes an identifier of what action to take with regard to the content.

13. The intelligent router of claim 9, wherein the tag identifies an owner of the content.

14. The intelligent router of claim 9, wherein the means for generating a tag further includes means for comparing the tag to other tags.

15. The intelligent router of claim 14, wherein the means for comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a database of tags.

16. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in software.

17. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in hardware.

18. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in firmware.

19. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the content includes a music file.

20. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the content includes a movie file.

21. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the content includes at least a portion of a book.

22. The intelligent router of claim 1, wherein the content includes an image.

23. An intelligent switch comprising:
means for analyzing content being transferred through it; and
means for identifying if the content is proprietary.

24. The intelligent switch of claim 23, further including means for blocking the content from being transferred across the switch.

25. The intelligent switch of claim 23, further including means for modifying the content before transferring it downstream.

26. The intelligent switch of claim 25, wherein the means for modifying the content includes means for adding dead air to a music file.

27. The intelligent switch of claim 25, wherein the means for analyzing the content includes means for generating a tag corresponding to the content.

28. The intelligent switch of claim 27, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the content.

29. The intelligent switch of claim 27, wherein the tag includes an IP address corresponding to the content.

30. The intelligent switch of claim 27, wherein the tag includes an identifier of what

action to take with regard to the content.

31. The intelligent switch of claim 27, wherein the means for generating a tag further includes means for comparing the tag to other tags.

32. The intelligent switch of claim 31, wherein the means for comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a database of tags.

33. The intelligent switch of claim 23, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in software.

34. The intelligent switch of claim 23, wherein the means for analyzing and the means for identifying are embodied in hardware.

35. The intelligent switch of claim 23, wherein the content includes a music file.

36. The intelligent switch of claim 23, wherein the content includes a movie file.

37. A method for routing content across a network router comprising the steps of:
analyzing the content being transferred through it; and
identifying if the content is proprietary.

38. The method of claim 37, further including the step of blocking the content from
being transferred across the router.

39. The method of claim 37, further including the step of modifying the content
before transferring it downstream.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of modifying the content includes step
of adding dead air to a music file.

41. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of modifying the content includes the
step of adding an advertisement to a movie file.

42. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of modifying the content includes the
step of adding noise.

43. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of modifying the content includes the
step of cutting off a portion of the content.

44. The method of claim 39, wherein the step of modifying the content includes

means for corrupting it.

45. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of analyzing the content includes step of generating a tag corresponding to the content.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the tag includes spectral information corresponding to the content.

47. The method of claim 45, wherein the tag includes an IP address corresponding to the content.

48. The method of claim 45, wherein the tag includes an identifier of what action to take with regard to the content.

49. The method of claim 45 wherein the tag identifies an owner of the content.

50. The method of claim 45, wherein the step of generating a tag further includes the step of comparing the tag to other tags.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the step of comparing the tag to other tags compares the tag to the other tags in a database of tags.

52. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of analyzing and the step of identifying

are embodied in software.

53. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of analyzing and the step of identifying are embodied in hardware.

54. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of analyzing and the step of identifying are embodied in firmware.

55. The method of claim 37, wherein the content includes a music file.

56. The method of claim 37, wherein the content includes a movie file.

57. The method of claim 37, wherein the content includes at least a portion of a book.

58. The method of claim 37, wherein the content includes an image.

59. A method for routing content across a network switch comprising the steps of:
analyzing content being transferred through it; and
identifying if the content is proprietary.

60. The method of claim 59, further including the step of blocking the content from
being transferred across the switch.

61. The method of claim 59, further including the step of modifying the content
before transferring it downstream.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein the step of analyzing the content includes the
step of generating a tag corresponding to the content.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the tag includes spectral information
corresponding to the content.

64. The method of claim 62, wherein the tag includes an IP address corresponding to
the content.

65. A computer program product for intelligently routing content in a network environment comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in the computer usable medium for causing an application program to execute on a computer system, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for analyzing content being transferred through it; and

computer readable program code means for identifying if the content is proprietary.